

momentarily that would explain a little bit about the amendment. The amendment does a couple of things, a couple of things that I think are of vital importance. And, first, the first thing that it does is it says that it is not only veterinary medicine that higher education in this state had ought to look across state lines, had ought to be interested in regional agreements with, but it ought to be interested in any area of high costs, particularly in medical professions at the graduate level. Before we start those kinds of programs or under our program review mechanism that we established last year with LB 981, if one of those programs already in existence become red-flagged under that program review mechanism, that we had ought to look across state lines in an effort to try to provide the services, to provide the access at a cheaper cost, at the cheapest possible cost to the taxpayers of this state and neighboring states. And the idea for this comes because for at least several years now I have on this floor and in various other locations across this state chastised the local school districts because they had not been very willing, in my opinion, to cooperate with each other and look across their school district boundary lines in order to help hold down the cost to the taxpayers and provide the services. And it seems to me that we could do those same things where that same analogy would apply at state...at the state level. There are things we could provide jointly with a neighboring state that we simply can't provide, we can't afford to do, we can't be everything to everybody within our own state boundaries. So this amendment would set up, first of all, that it would apply to all areas of higher education. Secondly, it says that we are going to get the Legislature involved in these things. We are going to get the Legislature under a mechanism created in the amendment to get an oversight committee within the Legislature. And the reason I think that is important and I don't mean this probably the way that it is going to sound because I believe that institutions of higher learning because of their very nature, the Governor's boards, the administration, all have a real protectionism of their own environment, if you will, that is necessary. If I was a member of the Board of Regents, for example, I am sure I would be very protective of the University of Nebraska. I should be. That is what I was elected to do. But since you have got that sort of a mechanism involved in all of higher education, I think it is going to be very difficult if not impossible to come up with a truly cooperative regional program between two